

**SPRING OPEN BUDDY
LAKE DECATUR 8th ANNUAL BASH
Sponsored by Springfield Crappie Club**

Sunday, APRIL 19TH 2026

7:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

7 Crappie, 10-inch Limit

Morning Check-in: Livewell & Baitwell Check by 6:00 A.M. TO 6:30 A.M.

Lake Decatur – Nelson Boat Ramp

Afternoon Check-in at Ramp by 2:30 P.M.

Entry FEE: **100.00** Big fish \$20.00 Per boat

Payback :1st place **1,000.00** for 10 boats signed - up Day of tournament

2ND Place 15 boats are signed - up 3rd Place 20 boats are signed - up

PAYING ONE SPOT 80% OF FEES COLLECTED IF 9 OR LESS BOATS SIGN - UP

SEE second page for application, Rules and REGULATIONS. TO Qualify for the CLASSIC, You Must Physically Fish 3 Club or 2 Club and 1 Open TOURNAMENT.

ALL CRAPPIE DEPOSITED INTO THE WEIGH-IN TUB AT THE WEIGH-IN LOCATION WILL CONSIDERED BROUGHT TO THE SCALE. ONE TEAM MEMBER MAY REACH INTO THE TUB TO SELECT THE TEAMS "BIG FISH FOR THE SCALE. OTHER THAN THE ONE "BIG FISH" NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADD A FISH TO THE TUB OR REMOVE A FISH ALREADY DEPOSITED INTO THE TUB FOR WEIGH-IN.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

TEAM TOURNAMENT (TWO PERSONS PER TEAM, ONE TEAM PER BOAT)

RULES: The following rules for the tournament will be used. These rules will be interpreted solely by the Tournament Committee and all decision are final.

Live wells and bait well check between 6:00 and 6:30 A.M.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE: Tournament Committee shall consist of Springfield Crappie Club Board Members at the tournament.

ELIGIBILITY: All individuals who have paid the appropriate entry fee.

HEADQUARTERS/TIME/DATE: Lake Decatur – Nelson Boat Ramp. **Sunday, APRIL 19 2026**

Check-in at headquarters by 6:00a.m to 6:30 Fishing time will be from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Fishing times can be adjusted by Tournament Director and will be announced the morning of the tournament, for example weather, etc.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Live bait may be used. More than one pole may be used.

All Illinois Department of Natural Resources laws and regulations shall apply.

ENTRY FEE: Entries received by mail on or before Saturday, APRIL 11 2026 \$100.00 per team. No checks will be accepted after APRIL 11 2026

Returned checks will result in immediate disqualification. No postdated checks allowed.

(CASH ONLY DAY OF TOURNAMENT)

DEPARTURE: Departure will be in sequence in which entry fees are received. We reserve the right to adjust takeoff procedures and hours if necessary.

PAYBACK: 1 spot for every 5 boats.

TIES: Ties will be broken by big fish weight. Big fish tie will be broken by the earliest starting position.

PROTESTS: Protest must be filed in writing with the Tournament Committee before the scale closes.

DECISIONS ON PROTESTS: The Tournament Committee will decide all protests. All decisions are final.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Anywhere on the lake that is permitted by IDNR.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION: If the tournament is cancelled due to reasons of safety, etc., the entry fee will be refunded.

REFUNDS FOR ANY OTHER REASON WILL NOT BE MADE.

BOAT IDENTIFICATION: A contestant number must be available at all times during the tournament. Boats may not be trailered during the tournament.

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST FISH FROM A BOAT.

SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP: Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed. Life jackets must be worn at takeoff.

All IDNR laws and regulations shall apply. **NO ALCOHOL DURING TOURNAMENT WHILE ON THE WATER.**

SCORING: Total weight of SEVEN (7) crappie per team will determine winners. Crappie must measure at least TEN (10) inches long.

Any team bringing more than seven (7) or any crappie under 10 inches, to the scales will be disqualified.

Crappie brought to the scale for weigh-in must have been caught during tournament hours by the team bringing the fish to the scale.

Any frozen or mangled fish presented for weigh-in will result in disqualification.

Contestants must be in sight of their partners during the tournament hours and until they have weighed in.

Big crappie is determined by weight.

BIG CRAPPIE: 1st Place pays 100% of the Big CRAPPIE pot collected. FEE: 20.00 PER BOAT

WEIGH-IN LINE: Location of the weigh-in area will be announced the day of the tournament. No team will be allowed to get into the line until after 3:00.

Afternoon Check-in: Lake Decatur – Nelson Boat Ramp by 2:30 p.m.

OFFICIAL CLOCK: Tournament Committee shall appoint one of its members to maintain an official clock.

The Tournament shall operate on the time of that official clock.

=====PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY AND COMPLETE ALL BLANKS-----CUT ALONG THIS LINE AND MAIL=====

At the request of the tournament committee, all tournament participants agree to submit to and pass a truth test prior to receipt of any prize.

We _____ (boater) and _____ (non-boater)
Signature Signature

Do hereby agree to release Springfield Crappie Club from any and all liability as a result of our participation in the crappie tournament to be held on APRIL 19th 2026 at Lake Decatur. We understand that we are participating in this at our own risk and that we are assuming all risk incident to said Tournament including the travel to and from the tournament, the participation in the tournament, and all other activities to the tournament that we choose to participate in. We indemnify and hold harmless the Springfield Crappie Club and TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR from any and all liability as a result of our participation and waive any claim for liability that we might have of any kind or nature against the said Springfield Crappie Club.

This Release and Indemnification made and entered this _____ day of _____, 2026

Print Name _____ Boater Print Name _____ Non-Boater
Address _____ Address _____
Phone (____) _____ Phone (____) _____
Email _____ Email _____

ENTRY FEE: 100.00 Check here if entering optional Big Crappie Pot: _____ (\$20.00 Extra per Boat)

Make checks payable to: Springfield Crappie Club
Mail Check and entry form to: Springfield Crappie Club | For Office use only |
PO BOX 2574 | Received _____ # _____ |
Springfield, IL 62708

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL. RICK MONTTOOTH (217-306-5490)

